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of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers of Great Britain, the Iron and Steel Institute of Great Britain, of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers of which he was a founder in 1880 and of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He was a corresponding member of the Société d'Encouragement pour L'Industrie Nationale and also a Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur. This decoration was conferred upon him at the close of the Paris Exposition in 1899.

F. R. HUTTON.

#### EDWARD HENRY STROBEL (1855-1908)

Fellow in Class III, Section 1, 1902.

It does not often fall to the lot of an American to fill positions so varied in character as those which Edward Henry Strobel held during his life of fifty-two years — Third Assistant Secretary of State, Secretary of Legation, Minister Plenipotentiary, head of a special mission, sole arbitrator between two powers, Professor of Law in the Harvard Law School, the trusted adviser of a progressive oriental government.

He was born in Charleston, South Carolina, on December 7, 1855, of a family on whose fortunes the civil war bore heavily. After due preliminary education, he entered Harvard College, was graduated with his class, that of 1877, and thereafter entered the Harvard Law School in the autumn of 1877, but did not take the degree of LL.B. until 1882. After having been admitted to the bar, he practised in New York for a short time, but soon turned to public life.

He participated in the presidential campaign of 1884, contributing an interesting pamphlet on Mr. Blaine and his foreign policy. This document seems to have attracted the attention of Mr. Cleveland, for when the latter became President, he offered Strobel the post of Secretary of Legation at Madrid. Strobel spent about five years in Spain, and acted as Chargé d'Affaires during a third of the time. In 1888 he was sent on a special mission to Morocco. On the change of administration, he tendered his resignation, but was retained in office until 1890. In 1893, President Cleveland appointed him Third Assistant Secretary of State. In 1894 he became Minister to Ecuador, and shortly thereafter was made Minister to Chile. He remained at

the latter post until 1897, accomplishing excellent work under somewhat trying conditions. At the close of his stay, he received a signal mark of distinction in being chosen by both France and Chile to arbitrate a claim of a French citizen against the government of Chile.

In 1898, Strobel was called to the Bemis Professorship of International Law in the Harvard Law School. The founder of the chair had expressed the desire that the occupant should be not merely a professor of the science, but a practical co-operator in the work of advancing knowledge and good will among nations and governments. Strobel's intellect and temperament peculiarly fitted him to improve the relations between States, and the years spent in the diplomatic service had added the qualification of experience which the late George Bemis had also mentioned when making his bequest.

As Bemis Professor, Strobel gave courses in the Law School in International Law and Admiralty. He also taught International Law in the College. He was an interesting and able instructor, and gathered large classes about him. Perhaps he felt a little impatience with "theorizing," but it is to be remembered that he had successfully handled large affairs and had carried considerable responsibilities. After four years of service as a teacher, he was called to a very different field.

In a distant corner of the Far East there lies a land which has succeeded in maintaining its independence while many other empires, kingdoms, and principalities of Asia have fallen under alien rule. How Siam has been able to accomplish this — often only with great difficulty — forms an interesting study, but it is a study which cannot be undertaken here. Suffice it to say that when in 1902 Strobel entered into relations with Siam, its political situation was one of considerable danger. He was offered, and he accepted, the post of General Adviser to the Siamese Government. While he did not reach Bangkok until March, 1904, he was occupied during a great part of the intervening time in negotiations in Europe. These resulted in a treaty with France, signed in 1902, which failed of ratification by the French Government, and of another treaty signed on February 13, 1904, and afterwards duly ratified. On the evening of the day on which the latter treaty was signed in Paris, he started for Bangkok, with the new treaty sewed in his coat pocket.

The post to which he was called was one which exactly suited his abilities and experience. Siamese foreign affairs occupied most of his attention, and here of course he was at home. The foreign affairs of the kingdom were in a condition where "theorizing" upon legal

rights and wrongs would do more harm than good. What was needed was a practical solution of problems, some of which had been pending for years. The amount of work that came into the office of the General Adviser was overwhelming. But Strobel's mind quickly grasped the questions at issue, and — what was at least as important — he understood the men with whom he had to deal. These men were of many nations and races, they came from all the countries of Western Europe and of Eastern Asia. In addition to foreign relations, he was confronted with many questions of internal administration, and to them he brought the same intelligence and skill.

In December, 1905, Strobel went home on leave. He stopped in Egypt on the way, and there was stricken with blood-poisoning, from which he never fully recovered. After fifteen months' absence, during most of which he suffered greatly, he was able to return to Siam, and immediately resumed his many activities; but he was not to be long spared, for on January 15, 1908, he died in the midst of his labors.

While the time he actually spent in Siam amounted to only about two and a half years, he left behind him a memory which is seldom, if ever, the crown of even a lifetime of work in the Far East. From the beginning, he inspired the confidence both of the Government which he served and of all with whom he came in touch. Before his arrival, perhaps not all persons in Siam looked forward with pleasure to the coming of an American to fill the highest post there open to a European. But Strobel speedily made it clear that he felt he could best serve the Siamese Government by dealing fairly and justly with every matter laid before him. Once that reputation was established, the rest was easy.

SAMUEL WILLISTON.